

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC HERALD

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DISINHERITED CHILDREN AND "EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES"

Conditions Under Which Thousands are Brought Into the World Due Solely to the Capitalist System

By E. H. T.

Come with me to the poorest quarter of a great city this sultry summer evening. You must walk in the middle of the street, for the sidewalks are blocked with crowds of people who have swarmed out of their stifling tenements where the heat is actually unendurable. They gather by families around their doors, and the problem is, how can so many swarms come out of one hive? In cold weather, when they cannot remain on the streets, where do all these people put themselves?

But look here. This is what I wanted to show you; this little child lying asleep on the bare pavement. This little child who has no home worthy of the name, and no easier resting place than the hard stone. And yet he is just as soft and tender a baby as the little one cozily nestled in his dainty white nest in the millionaire's home. And yet the little curly head on its stony pillow has just as strong a claim to life and its good things as any other innocent child brought into the world without its own consent. What has become of his birthright? Or why has society disinherited this unoffending little one?

Now do not flatter yourself, Mr. Workingman, that your babies have a strong arm to protect them and will never sink to the level of these children of the slums. A dull season or a panic may find you next year tramping the streets and staring at the signs in the factory windows, "No men needed here." What can your strong arms do for your children if it does not hold the tool with which it can win their bread? That tool belongs to the capitalist, and he may answer your appeal for work to feed your little ones with the words of one of Chicago's millionaires, that "a workingman has no right to have a family."

The day may be near when your children will share this baby's pillow.

And you, my friend of the middle class, do not imagine for one moment that your home stands secure and cannot be undermined by the capitalistic system. Year by year and day by day the great trusts are thrusting your class aside, and pushing them down into the classes below. Your business may be the next to be ruined; or the mortgage on your farm may be foreclosed; your home may be broken up, and your own boy and girl forced into the ranks of the disinherited children.

Think what it means! Think of the thousands brought into the world every year who were foredoomed before their birth to a life of want and suffering. We shudder at the old-fashioned doctrine of predestination, according to which certain persons were doomed to perdition

before they were born. We wonder how our grandfathers could have believed such a cruel doctrine, and yet we see it daily enacted before our very eyes. Think of the large per cent of children who die in infancy from exposure and lack of proper or sufficient food. Yes, I grant the little ones are wise to get away from such a miserable world betimes. But, what sort of a system have we, if the best we can offer them is a slow death by privation and suffering? Is society really so helpless that it cannot provide some way to prevent this slaughter of the innocents?

Look at it in another light. These children of the dispossessed classes, even if they succeed in struggling through their perilous infancy, or if they are born into homes of comparative comfort, where actual want is unknown, are yet handicapped in the race of life from the very start. Equal opportunities for all in America? How about the child in the factory or shop, dwarfed physically and intellectually, till he becomes fit for nothing but to be the slave of a machine? How about the boy on the mortgaged farm, whose education must be systematically interrupted so that he may help his father with the heavy burden of hopeless farm work? How many parents of the dispossessed classes can provide their children with any thing beyond a mere primary education, or even dream of giving them a professional or technical training that would fit them to take their places beside the sons of the rich?

"Equal opportunities," indeed! Now my friend, you who fear Socialism and defend the present system, what can you say to this? What argument can you produce to prove the justice of an order of society which not only permits, but perpetuates such a state of things? That continually replaces the prematurely worn-out workmen with a younger generation so trained that they are unfit for anything but the life of slavery which their fathers led before them and their sons and daughters must lead after them, when they in their turn are thrown away like a broken tool? If society must always go on in this vicious circle, is it not all a huge mistake, and would not "universal suicide be a wiser course?"

There is another alternative worth the trying. Give to those who labor the total product of their toil; give all an opportunity of employment; let there be no dispossessed parents, and there will be no disinherited children, nor one little innocent who shall miss the birthright assigned to him by Justice and by Nature.

avail themselves with a clear conscience. It would be wrong to say that there are no good men or ideas in the old parties, but it does seem that they have about outlived their usefulness; and it is safe to assert that the Social Democracy has more to commend it to the conscientious voter than any other party before the people. Therefore, holding unalterably to the "universal brotherhood of humanity, without distinction of race, sex, creed, caste or color," I shall this year vote for Eugene Debs for President and feel thoroughly satisfied in doing it, too!

It seems that the nation which would lead in progress must take the initiative in making brotherhood visible and tangible. May ours be that nation!—A Chicago Theosophist.

A BALLAD OF CRIME AND DEATH

By Raley Husted Bell.

He does not wear the epaulettes
Nor the "corporal's" coat of gray,
Yet sickly gray is on the flesh
Of this monster man of prey.
Who, like some misshapen Martian
toad,
Unfurled the flag of fray.

He sits upon the latest throne—
Imperially commands
Our fighting lads to maim and kill
The brave of other lands.
His fat heart knows one craven wish—
The greed of miser-hands.

His craven heart is fat and sleek—
Unholy bends his eye—
The devil bought his soul from him
And Hanna bought the sty.
No more the home of patriot chiefs,
But a nest that brigands buy.

He doubly damns a peaceful land,
This foul and murderous thing!
And murder stalks the tracks of him—
Aye! Yet shall bullets sing,
And yet shall solemn midnight bells
For a damned soul ring!

The shot that laid sweet Lincoln low
(Dear Christ! That he were spared!)
Is spent and paid and dead we know—
And yet that shot was dared!
And still another chief we loved
Fell low to crime unshared.

But we pray that this fair land of ours
Be spared more stains of red—
Our flag is full of crimson bars
Where stars should smile instead;
And we pray our brave lads' blood redeems
The heroes' blood they shed.

Yet if "man kills the thing he loves,
By each let this be heard:
Some do it with a bitter look,
Some with a flattering word;
The coward does it with a kiss
The brave man with a sword!"

Miners Keep Away

From authentic sources we are informed that the mine owners and the martial law authorities of the Coeur d'Alene district are advertising in Ohio, Michigan and other eastern states for miners claiming a scarcity of laborers in this district, and offering extra inducements to miners to come here. In every respect this is a misrepresentation. There is not a scarcity of laborers here, and in fact there are now two men here today seeking employment for each man who is at work. The conditions are the worst that ever confronted labor anywhere in the United States. The advertisements for men which are being scattered in the east, state that there is no strike or trouble of any kind. There is no strike, but miners everywhere should be informed as to the conditions existing here. The difficulty between the laborers and mine operators in this district are not settled and the presence of Federal troops and continuance of martial law in this county are proof of the fact. Organized labor is unlawfully discriminated against by the state authorities for political purposes, and a man who gets employment here under the conditions is a slave. He must propitiate a score of state deputies and the vendor of permits to seek employment. —Idaho State Tribune.

Another View of New Zealand

M. Albert Metin, in "Notes on a Tour Round the World," printed in the Clarion, has the following reference to Australia and New Zealand: "Socialism, as a matter of fact, does not exist in these countries. The trade unionists are afraid of the word; Socialists, they told me, are extremists. Another prominent leader of the Labor party, whom I questioned as to his platform, replied, laconically: 'My platform? ten bob a day.' There is no sign in these countries of the remarkable English minority which protests with so much conscience and energy against the prejudices of society and the privileges of wealth; and though the laws in Australia have greatly improved the material situation of the workers, the moral and intellectual gain has been much less.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ACTIVE EVERYWHERE FOR SOCIALISM

Some of the State and Local Tickets Nominated—Enthusiasm Abounds Where Our Forces Are United

COOK COUNTY CONVENTION

The county convention of the Social Democratic party of Cook county, Illinois, met at Bohemian Turner Hall, Ashland avenue, Sunday morning, July 15. Convention was called to order by Chairman Holsinger of the committee. Comrade Frank Roderus was elected chairman and Comrade A. S. Edwards secretary.

Committee of three appointed on credentials, F. Svoboda, W. C. Horgan, and A. F. Dennison, reported the branches represented as follows: Branch 2, 43; Branch 3, 11; Branch 4, 23; Branch 5, 11; Branch 6, 6; Branch 7, 11; Branch 8, 23; Branch 12, 5; Branch 18, 9. Total representation, 143.

The convention by acclamation reaffirmed the Indianapolis platform and the state platform of the Social Democratic party.

On motion the convention at once proceeded to the nomination of candidates for the county ticket, with the following result:

State's Attorney—Wm. A. Cunnea.
Recorder of Deeds—George Simonds.
Clerk of Circuit Court—James Mudra.

Clerk of Superior Court—Gus Anderson.

Coroner—Rudolph Pusch.

Board of Assessors—J. A. Ambroz, M. Holsinger.

Board of Review—John Starr.

County Surveyor—W. H. Redford.
County Commissioners—Ferdinand Wimmer (President); Uhlhorn, John Aird, Frank Mitchell, Gus Hanson, Edward Lakaj, Werner, Joseph Dunder, Kelleher, August Philgraff, Anton Tyrdy.

Drainage Commissioners—Charles Bigel, James Hauser, E. J. French, H. G. Conrad, A. J. Amant.

On motion nominations for judge of the Probate court and judges of the Superior court were temporarily passed over and instructions given the county committee to fill said vacancies after consultation.

On motion the convention elected the following committee of eleven and requested the city committee to co-operate with them, the complete body to constitute the county campaign committee:

McSweeney, H. H. Fraelich, J. J. Florian, M. Holsinger, W. M. Kirwin, H. G. Conrad, Peter Knickrehm, F. J. Peter, James Wright, Kelleher, Frank Filas.

The following resolution was read and adopted:

Resolved, That the announcements made in the Workers' Call and the New York People to the effect that on July 4 a united convention of the Social Democratic and Social Labor parties was held in Chicago, thus conveying the impression that the two parties in this city and state have amalgamated, are misleading and untrue; the Social Democratic party has its own state and county tickets, and except as to the defection of less than half a dozen members, our organization is intact, and as a matter of fact has not amalgamated with, nor is it a part of the so-called "Socialist party."

On motion the convention adjourned.

FRANK RODERUS,

Chairman.

A. S. EDWARDS,

Secretary.

UTAH STATE CONVENTION

The C. D. P. of Utah met in convention for nominating a full state ticket for the coming election, on July 5 in Salt Lake City. Twenty-five delegates were present representing six branches. F. M. McQuivey of Eureka was chosen chairman and Chas. E. Strong of Nephi, secretary. The following platform was adopted:

We fully endorse the national platform of the S. D. P. of A. and further make these demands:

We demand that all appointive offices be made elective.

We hereby endorse the proposed amendment to the state constitution providing for the adoption of direct legislation and call the attention of the people of Utah to the fact that by voting for this amendment at the coming election they will have an opportunity to obtain a voice in the affairs of their state.

We especially advocate the state ownership and operation of all water rights, reservoirs, canals, ditches, etc., for irrigating purposes, and that all water be furnished to the people at cost.

We demand the abolition of the contract system in public works and the direct employment of labor by the state and municipalities.

We demand that adequate school facilities shall be furnished by the state to all children between the age of five and

twenty-one years, school facilities to include sufficient school room, normal trained teachers, free school books and supplies, food and clothing.

A full state ticket was then nominated with the exception of justice of Supreme court, as follows:

Three Presidential Electors—Geo. B. Hobbs of Neplin, W. D. Clay of Bingham, and Jos. Ward of Salt Lake City.

For Governor—Martin Wright, of Mt. Pleasant.

Secretary of State—C. C. Goodwin, of Logan.

State Treasurer—John F. Osborn, of Bingham.

Attorney General—L. H. Gray, Salt Lake City.

State Auditor—Chas. E. Strong, of Neplin.

Land Commissioners—E. L. Powell, of Bingham; Byron Wheelock, of Eureka; J. L. Peterson, of Smithfield.

Representative in Congress—A. B. Edler, of Salt Lake City.

The whole ticket without exception was unanimously nominated.

A committee of five was appointed to carry on the campaign, fill vacancies, etc., as follows: Comrades Mahan, Smith, and Hansen of Salt Lake City; Richards of Bingham, and McQuivey of Eureka.

Before the convention adjourned the following resolution was passed without a dissenting vote: "We, the delegates of this convention, do sanction the action of our National Executive Board in regard to the committee on union and do hereby renew our allegiance to the S. D. P. of A., and especially condemn the attempt of certain members to disrupt our party by violating their pledges."

Charles A. Strong, Sec.

CONNECTICUT STATE TICKET

The Social Democratic party and the Socialist Labor party of Connecticut in state convention July 4 adopted the following resolution:

"That the S. D. P. and the S. L. P. unite on presidential, state and local candidates, platform and state campaign committee in the state of Connecticut." The following is the ticket nominated:

For Governor,

GEO. ANTHONY SWEETLAND.

Lieutenant-Governor,

WILLIAM ERNEST WHITE.

Secretary of State,

IRVING G. CHATFIELD.

State Treasurer,

WILLIAM BARTELS.

Comptroller,

WILLIAM J. SANSOUCY.

Attorney-General,

GEORGE A. GOWDY.

TERRE HAUTE TICKET

The Social Democrats of Terre Haute and vicinity held their county convention at C. L. U. hall July 9th, and nominated the following candidates for the various county offices at the November election:

For State Senator,

WILLIAM BUNDY.

For Representatives,

C. E. KINGSLEY,

JAMES O'NEAL.

For Prosecuting Attorney,

CHARLES D. WILGUS.

For Sheriff,

JOHN KINGSLEY.

For Treasurer,

EDWARD HOLLINGSWORTH.

For Coroner,

S. M. YOUNG.

For Surveyor,

A. M. BAKER.

For Assessor,

WILLIAM W. ANSTEAD.

For Members County Council,

WILLIAM BACHELOR,

JAMES HATCHELL,

GEORGE KNIPPE,

JAMES WALL,

HENRY HESSEY,

CHARLES WALL.

NEBRASKA STATE TICKET

For Governor,

THEODORE KHARAS.

Lieutenant-Governor,

DANIEL McKIBBEN.

Secretary of State,

FRANK NEWMAN.

Treasurer,

S. L. JOHNS.

Auditor,

O. V. AULT.

Land Commissioner,

W. H. NYC.

Attorney General,

J. M. EASTERLING.

Superintendent Public Instruction,

MISS BURLA WILKINS.

Convention endorsed the Indianapolis platform.

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CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1900.

Harriman's Propaganda In Behalf of "Socialism"

Infamous Tactics Resorted to by the
Managers of the So-Called
United Party

If it were possible for us to be guided solely by individual preference, to pass in silence the despicable and perfidious methods resorted to by Job Harriman and others to force what they call a "union of Socialists," and to keep the columns of The Herald clean of any further reference to that subject or its emissaries, we would gladly follow that course and stand as we have done since the promulgation of the "Manifesto," unmoved by calumny and undeterred in the discharge of our duty to the Socialist cause. The file of this paper is in evidence as proof that we have for weeks past sought to minimize the interest of our readers in this matter, by gradually subordinating it and using our space in the advocacy and propagation of Socialist principles. Columns and columns of matter calculated to provoke strife have been shut out; the printing of individual communications had almost wholly ceased and only such resolutions as expressed the collective ideas and purposes of branches appeared. In our desire to avoid controversy we have besides ignored numerous scandalously false and ferocious attacks upon our party, the authors of which shield themselves behind the mask of "fraternity" and "brotherhood" and babble of the "holy cause of union." We now ask that comrades open their eyes and use their own sober reason in the light of recent developments and the subjoined statement of facts. From the start the managers of that faction of the S. L. P. which seeks organic union with us, routed by De Leon, determined to capture our growing organization. Their smooth and well-chosen palaver was spread out to our delegates. They made a show of modesty. They were innocent as babes and all they wanted was "union." They pledged themselves to accept our name (having none of their own), broke their pledges and violently denounced the name, and then before the denunciation had died away, they adopted the name by acclamation—all for the sake of "union," and be it remembered, that they did not adopt our name UNTIL THE "MANIFESTO" WAS ISSUED AND THE WARNING WENT FORTH REVEALING THE DESIGN OF THE MANAGERS.

Some of our honest comrades could not see the drift in those bleak March days. They were easily led to believe that members of the executive board wanted to be "bosses"; they will soon all be convinced that we were contending against "bosses."

Present developments prove every point. The evidence is overwhelming and the despised "Manifesto" is completely vindicated. Every word of warning it contained was timely and every avowal as to the designs of the so-called "unionists" is now an established fact. All the foul batteries of abuse, misrepresentation and slander could not prevail against it. Defeated at every point and grown desperate in their defeat, these party-wreckers, masquerading as the guardians of the cause of human freedom, now have their Presidential candidate, Job Harriman, in the field, going from place to place as the guest of our comrades and our party by appointment made through a decoy, one of our own number.

And what is this guest by appointment doing? Stabbing the party, vilifying the organization and getting pay for doing it.

HARRIMAN'S WORK IN KENTUCKY

Where once was harmony and good will there is now bitter strife. The party can not suffer the insidious attack now being made by Job Harriman upon it without protest. Silence now is cowardice and inaction becomes treason. Our Kentucky comrades have been treated to a sample of the kind of "union" Harriman stands for. Report of it comes to headquarters in a letter, written by Comrade Jas. H. Arnold, of Louisville. In reading this letter, which is given in full below, our members will recollect that he (Arnold) had decided to quit us for, as he believed, the sake of union and harmony; he had,

in fact, renounced the N. E. B. and was with the fusionists. The letter is, therefore, written by one who had concluded in the interest of harmony to sever his relations with the Social Democratic party, until Harriman went to Kentucky and opened his eyes to the fact that it was not unity and harmony he wanted, but to wipe out of existence the Social Democratic party so that S. L. Pism might have undisputed sway.

COMRADE ARNOLD'S LETTER

The following is a copy of our comrade's letter, dated July 7, 1900; the writer was a delegate to the Indianapolis convention and impressed all who met him as a sincere, honorable man and devoted Socialist:

"Comrades of the S. D. P.: Mr. Job Harriman, candidate of the united (?) party for vice-president, has visited Louisville, got in his work for unity and as a result we are now divided. His visit has resulted in some eight or ten comrades going over to the united (?) party.

"His plan of campaign is as follows: His manager in this instance, Wm. Butcher, previously outlives some comrade in a braach to sympathy with his scheme that he will visit the city at a certain time; that arrangements should be made for an agitation meeting if possible, then, after the agitation meeting, there is to be a business meeting of the members. The purpose of the 'business meeting' is not made known to the members until the meeting has gathered. Then Mr. Harriman, taking advantage of the impression his speech has made on the members, and their own inexperience and their belief in his honesty, opens up with a long argument and plea for the comrades to 'unite.'

"He works on their supposed prejudice against the N. E. B. and then proceeds to demonstrate that the only way to overthrow the N. E. B. is to join his crowd not unite with the united (?) party, headquarters at Springfield, Mass.

"He is exceedingly smooth. He is a master of artifice, finesse and cunning. He has been engaged to this business for some time, and is doubtless doing his best to earn his salary and expenses.

"If through the contorted exercise of his 'fine Italian hand,' he (Harriman) succeeds in persuading branches enough of the S. D. P. to desert their own and join his organization, to give the united fellows a majority, doubtless, his employers will raise his wages.

"When he finished his speech to front of the court house in Louisville, a member in sympathy announced that a joint business meeting of our branches would be held in the hall. Upon arrival at the hall the chairman of the meeting announced there were several new members to enroll—three. Theo. Mr. Harriman was called upon for a talk, and for nearly an hour we heard his plea for unity—that we should leave our party and join his.

"The propositions from Butcher were laid before the branches and the chair asked for a motion to adopt them. The debate waxed warm, and a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The chair announced the members could vote down the motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was lost—the three new members voting against adjournment.

"Then came the motion to adopt the Butcher matter, unity, constitution and all, and it carried—the three aforesaid new members voting in favor. But the unity committee in their report expressly declared that only those were eligible to vote on the unity propositions who were members in good standing on April 1st.

"Harriman knew this, but since he and the united party were getting the benefit of these illegal votes (even from their own standpoint), he was willing that they should be counted.

"Branch No. 1 is now reorganizing and will recover from the Harriman stampede in a few days. The united (?) party disrupts will be dropped, and lost ground will soon be recovered. One more point I want to note. Harriman contends that he is the vice-presidential candidate of the united (?) party, and not the candidate of the S. D. P., and URGES THAT AS A REASON WHY WE SHOULD LEAVE THE S. D. P. AND JOIN THE UNITED PARTY.

"The loss of Mr. Harriman as our vice-presidential candidate would be a fearful price to pay for adhering to our own party but I think the party could pay the price and still survive the loss.

"Harriman says in effect: 'If you don't join the united party you may not have a chance to vote for ME as your vice-presidential candidate.' That is a clincher, especially so with those who imagine that the resignation of Harriman from the ticket with Debs would be fatal to the Socialist movement in this country.

"I connected at one time, in the interest of peace and harmony, to have the branch sever connection with the N. E. B. and stand independent, refusing to recognize either faction. This was agreed to as the wisest course. Our state convention, July 4, refused to entertain a proposition to sever this connection, but the next day, when the Covington delegates were gone, Harriman and Robinson secured the passing of resolutions endorsing the Butcher crowd. What do you think of that? Harriman stated over and over again that he was the candidate of the united (?) party, not of the S. D. P., with headquarters at Chicago. Harriman and the unity crowd have done nothing but sow dissension and strife since negotiations were opened.

"Comrades, we must get rid of Harriman, and the sooner the better. Let the united (?) S. L. P. party run him. He is not the kind of man the S. D. P. needs as a vice-presidential candidate. JAS. H. ARNOLD."

Comrade F. E. Seeds, one of the charter members of the branch at Covington, and an earnest, active worker in his state, also writes. He says:

"We held our state convention at Louisville on the 4th, nominated our ticket, state and national, and everything was harmonious and encouraging, as we thought. Last Saturday Harriman blew in here from Louisville, where he had succeeded in spoiling the harmony. He is here for the same purpose but we hope to foil him."

OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE TRUTH

Comrade Arnold's letter speaks for itself. The Social Democratic party at Indianapolis honored Harriman with the vice-presidential nomination. Now in his "business" meetings with our comrades he tells them he is not the nominee of the S. D. P. In a word, he repudiates our nomination to force our comrades into his so-called "united" camp managers, with headquarters at New

York, alias Springfield, Mass. Then, according to Benham, they will proceed to "tear the entrails out of De Leon's party." What an edifying conclusion to the crusade for Socialist unity! Kentucky united, harmonious and enthusiastic one day—the next divided, disrupted and disappointed by the nefarious work of one claiming to work for Socialist unity!

DOES HARRIMAN ACCEPT OR NOT?

We have a right to know, and speaking for the largest organized body of united Socialists in the United States, we demand specific declaration from Job Harriman if he accepts or repudiates the nomination of the Indianapolis convention. We demand an answer, yes or no. We do not propose to be satisfied with several columns of "interpretation of a situation," or a splutter of oily phrases. We want an answer and we want it quick. Following are the reasons for this demand:

1. Butcher is acting as agent for Harriman in making his appointments with the S. D. P. branches, betraying his own party in the interest of the "Kangaroos."

2. The vote on the fusion committee's report is so insignificantly small that the time of voting has been twice extended and now Harriman and others are frantically rushing about to gather in more votes—including illegal votes.

3. Harriman is paid by the so-called "united" party of New York to go about and destroy the S. D. P.

4. The "united" party in New York was effected by four delegates in good standing out of 20 S. D. P. branches and these four delegates represented only a very small per cent of the members of New York, and this "union" was declared in effect before the vote on unity was taken.

5. According to the reports from Kentucky, Harriman repudiated the nomination of the Indianapolis convention.

7. The Kentucky state convention refused to sever connection with our N. E. B. and party. Harriman waited until the Covington comrades returned home and then with the help of illegal votes, had the infamous resolution passed declaring treason to our party.

Will the members of the Social Democratic party hesitate for a single instant in deciding what their duty is when confronted by such a condition? Comrades, you are called upon, not in the name of "unity," but in behalf of the Socialist cause in this country, which is being dragged in the mud and made a thing for the scorn of honest men, to come to the point of decision. It is more than a question of party; it is a question of whether we shall have a Socialist movement at all.

Your candidate for President, Eugene V. Debs, stands squarely by his decision given at Indianapolis. He is in the fight as your nominee and will stay to the end. The hope of our cause rests with the Social Democratic party today. Whatever changes the future may bring, it is clearly the present duty of Socialists in the United States to rally to the support of the party which stands for Socialism, which was harmonious before it became inoculated with the virus of S. L. Pism, which is credited with whatever of noteworthy achievement attaches to Socialism in the United States, which is growing as no party declaring for international Socialism has ever grown.

Again we demand of Job Harriman, do you accept or repudiate the nomination of the Indianapolis convention of the Social Democratic party for vice-president?

A DEMOCRATIC CANARD

The silence of the capitalist press relative to the Social Democratic party and candidacy of Eugene V. Debs has at last been broken. We have been given a full column, first page article in the Sunday edition of the Chicago Chronicle and the conclusion every discerning man will draw from this marked prominence is that the managers of the Democratic party are suffering from a genuine scare, because Debs is in the field. The purpose of the article will be clear to every man when he reads that "on the first of October, Debs is to withdraw in favor of W. J. Bryan," and that the "Republican managers are laying plans to use the Social Democratic party as a McKinley aid society." If there is any thing preposterously false and utterly contemptible that the managers of the Democratic party are not equal to in their game of trying to deceive the working class voters, we would like to hear of it. The Bryanites fear this man's candidacy, with very good reason, and they propose to resort to lying and deception for the sole purpose of hoodwinking the working people who have made up their minds to vote for him. Everywhere the fear is growing that Bryan's election is endangered by the Social Democratic party ticket, and so it is. If the working class will arouse themselves, all capitalist parties will be in danger and McKinleyism too swept into oblivion. Social Democrats everywhere should not be surprised if frequent lying reports made out of whole cloth, are sent out from Democratic or Republican headquarters.

Eugene V. Debs is the candidate, and will be the candidate of the Social Democratic party for president, until the polls close next November.

NO ORGANIC UNION HAS BEEN EFFECTED

By Eugene V. Debs

Silence seems to give acquiescence to misrepresentation regarding the "unity" question. It is important enough that we should have a clear understanding about it. There has been no organic union of the S. D. P. and S. L. P. The issue was placed squarely before our party by the manifesto of the N. E. B. and defeated by a decided majority. Nor is this all. The second vote taken upon the committee report by those who took exception to the manifesto, simply verified the first vote and emphasized the decision of the party. But a small minority of members in good standing voted on the report at all. Repeated extensions of time and the most vigilant drumming of votes could not alter the result.

The two parties are therefore separate and distinct organizations as they were before the question of union was raised. This is the fact and no amount of misrepresentation can change it. Yet there are those who insist that the two parties are now one. Defeated by the general vote of the party at large, they have appealed to the states to secede from the party, and we have heard that one state after another has effected organizations in defiance of, if not renouncing allegiance to, the National party. These reports are in nearly every case false and misleading. Take New York for example. Four bona fide S. D. P. delegates attended the "joint" convention. Sixteen branches refused to participate on the ground that they were opposed to organic union. Yet these four delegates, representing but about ten per cent of our membership in New York, acting with the delegates of the S. L. P., declared the two parties a "united" party. Such actions are not calculated to promote union sentiment. They simply inaugurate strife. And yet those who object to such methods are denounced for opposing union.

The National party decided against organic union and I maintain that no state convention has any authority to commit the party to such an alliance and that those who take such a step in defiance of the party's mandate secede from and sever their relations with the party. I have no fault to find with comrades for joining the Kangaroo S. L. P. but I object to the assumption that their action is that of the party of which they are but a very small minority. The National Executive Board has been and is unanimous upon this question. When they issued their manifesto it was charged that they, and they alone, were opposed to union, and it was freely predicted that the board and its action would be repudiated by an overwhelming majority. Instead of this the board has been twice sustained by the party, once by the vote on the manifesto and again by the negative action on the report of the "unity" committee.

We have been told over and over again that the rank and file demand "union" and that only the "leaders" stand in the way. Then why do not the "rank and file" remove the "leaders" and unite? Nothing is easier or simpler. Our constitution provides the power of recall and five per cent of the members can initiate the demand. The fact is that a large majority of our comrades are opposed to joining the S. L. P. They are satisfied with their party as it is; and in spite of all that has been said about their N. E. B. they know that not one of its members sought or desired official position, that not one of them has ever received a cent of salary, that every one of them has served the party to his own personal loss and inconvenience and that every cent of their official expenses from first to last, has been paid from their own private income. Can the same be said of their accusers and traducers?

There has been no opposition to "union" in any proper sense of that term. We have resisted an alliance which under the circumstances was fraught with dissension and strife, not union and harmony. We do not quarrel with those who differ from us. They have all the rights we claim for ourselves. Let them unite with the S. L. P. if they choose to and we will have nothing mean to say about them. Time will show which of us is right.

Since there has been some question about my status as a candidate, I wish it understood that I am the candidate of the Social Democratic party, whose convention nominated me at Indianapolis and whose national headquarters are located at Chicago.

I do not doubt the time will come when we shall have a united party. Until then we yield to the inexorable logic of facts.

We do not claim that we are better than others. We may not be as good. That is not the question. We differ from them and we are simply standing by our convictions.

But be these differences among socialists what they may, they can and should in every battle unite against capitalism and to such a policy of united action we stand pledged until we have a truly united party.

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NO FUSION IN ILLINOIS

The Social Democrats of Illinois for weeks hoped to make such arrangements as would result in political cooperation with other Socialists in this state. Failing in this, owing to the unreasonable and confusing course followed by the S. L. P. managers in Chicago, our comrades filed their nominating papers with the State Secretary three weeks ago and on those papers appear the names of Debs and Harriman. Our state convention followed the nomination of its ticket with a resolution which read as follows:

"Resolved, by the Social Democratic party assembled in state convention, that they believe in political union in the state of Illinois, and therefore, and to this end, appoint a committee of seven, who shall have power to retire candidates from the state ticket of the Social Democratic party and substitute candidates of the Socialist Labor party therefor."

We had assurances that this course made an approach to amicable relations for the campaign possible. But under the baleful domination of a few "bosses" like Simons, editor of the International Socialist Review, and T. J. Morgan, who was opposed to the union from the start for no other conceivable reason than that he saw the movement outgrowing his narrow limitations, this offer was rejected, and as a result some of the most sincere and rational men in the "Kangaroo" camp in Chicago are through with them. Long before the Indianapolis convention several of our comrades in Chicago, made offers for union which the Simon-Morganites rejected, and notwithstanding this, nearly all of us to a man voted for the candidates of the S. L. P. at the municipal elections last spring, and thereby swelled the Socialist vote in Chicago from 1,500 to over 5,000. More than that, we contributed to the expenses of the election, and have been rewarded for our fraternal interest in the cause of Socialism on that occasion with studied abuse and vilification. Every move made by these so-called unionists in Chicago has been in line with Harriman's infamous tactics, though more blunderingly conducted.

These Simon-Morgan Socialists of Chicago held what they called a "joint" convention July 4. They are incorporated as the "Socialist Labor Party," a few weeks ago they voted themselves the "Social Democratic Party," and in their "joint" convention, under the absurd leadership of the astute gentlemen before mentioned, they decided that they were the "Socialist Party." Their "joint" convention was an abortion, only four Social Democrats being present, and these from a branch with the majority of its members opposed to the things being done in these days in the name of Socialism and "unity." They nominated Comrade F. G. Strickland (who was not present) on their county ticket against his protest and he authorizes the Herald to say that he repudiates that nomination.

No union between the Social Democratic party in Illinois and the Simon-Morgan Socialists has been effected nor is any desirable, and all reports sent out to the contrary are purposely intended to deceive.

IOWA STATE CONVENTION

A convention of the Social Democratic party of Iowa is hereby called to meet at the city of Oskaloosa on Friday, Aug. 10, 1900.

Owing to the fact that there are thousands of unattached Socialists in Iowa as yet not affiliated with branches, we have deemed it proper to issue the call so as to admit a reasonable number of Socialists from each county in addition to and distinct from the representation of the branches. Therefore Socialists throughout the state are invited to attend and participate in the work of the convention.

Each county will be permitted to have five votes of this character.

Each branch of the Social Democratic party and each section of the Social Labor party will be permitted as many votes as there are members of the branch or section, and the members present from such branch or section will be permitted to cast the full vote of the membership of said organization. The convention will assemble at 10 o'clock a. m., and in addition to such other matters as may properly come before that body will transact the following business:

1. The nomination of a full state and electoral ticket.
2. The nomination in district causes, so far as possible, candidates for congress.
3. The formation of a permanent organization of Iowa Socialists.

A. W. Ricker, State Organizer.

CONVENTION CALL

A congressional and legislative convention of the Social Democratic party will be held at Nagles Hall, Blue Island avenue, Saturday, July 21, at 8 o'clock, to which branches 2, 3, 5, 6 and 19 should send delegates under same rules as the county convention. Southside Bohemians please take action.

NEW BRANCHES

Webb City, Missouri.
Eugene, Oregon.

RIP VAN WINKLE REDIVIVUS

By James Allman, New York.

About two years ago I received the following peremptory notice written upon a postal card:

"Comrade:—Go to Yonkers at once. Get there about noon or as early in the afternoon as possible and assist the comrades there to fix up certain differences which unfortunately exist among them. Then speak in the open air at Getty Square at 8 p. m.

"Yours fraternally,

The time of the day was 11:30 a. m. and I was occupied peacefully reading Edward Bellamy's "Equality," a book which I had just borrowed. I immediately flung the book down upon the table amid the manuscripts unfinished, finished and rejected—principally rejected—pipes, tobacco, books, matches, newspapers, pamphlets, letters, etc., which go to compose in their heterogeneous collectivity the literary litter on the table of my furnished apartment.

Rapidly making the necessary change of clothing, i. e., putting on my coat and vest and the only clean collar I had, I quickly picked a few notes and thinking I might need something to read I snatched up the book also and hurrying out soon found myself on the New York Central Railroad, rushing upward toward Yonkers. The train dashed shrieking and rattling through the smoky and hideous tunnel which extends from the Grand Central Depot many blocks and at length emerged into the open air near One Hundredth street. The tall rows of flats, wadry and monotonous, swept past on either side and I looked up at the windows from whence looked down the pale faces of sickly women and children and I shuddered with a sensation of disgust and weariness.

Presently patches of parched greensward appeared between the houses and I felt the approach of that repulsively genteel and respectable borderland between God's beautiful open country and man's filthy overcrowded city, called the suburbs. I hate the suburbs and the contemptible middle class denizens thereof; hence I reached for my book, but upon opening it I laughed heartily.

In my hurry I had picked up Washington Irving's "Sketch Book" instead of Edward Bellamy's "Equality." It is very refreshing to re-read the books of one's childhood and it was not without some relish mixed with pleasant memories that I began again to peruse the misadventures of that delightful schnapps-drinking, wife-hating, never-working, lovable vagabond, Rip Van Winkle.

The train dashed across the trestle bridge which spans the Spuyter Duyvil creek and looking up from the book I beheld the beautiful blue Hudson sweeping onward before me, its myriad moving waves flashing like glowing sapphires in the sunlight, while its broad majestic deeps extended in cool and kindly embrace around the feet of the tall green mountains on either side.

A resident of a large city who seldom sees fair Mother Nature attired in her glorious mantle, green and bedecked with those fairest and brightest of all jewels, the many-hued early summer flowers, gazes upon her with the rapture of a lover who meets but seldom a beautiful mistress.

I gazed upon the mighty mountains, their shoulders garbed in green woodland, their heads crowned with coronets of clouds and their forms reflected in the azure mirror of the waters. But suddenly I saw something that irritated me. The sides of the mountains had been in places denuded of all trees in order to make room for the palatial residences of the multi-millionaires who dwell along the Hudson. What appeared like small white spots in the far distance I knew to be more than regal palaces of the Goulds, Rockefellers, Whitneys, etc., who have their residences at Tarrytown, Dobbs Ferry and other places along the Rhine of America. Disgusted with the proximity of these plutocrats I exclaimed: "Is it not possible to escape from them?" I turned in disgust from these reminders of modern commercial greed and looked across the dark blue river, but even as I did so a rush, roar and shrieking whistle accompanied by a cloud of smoke which enveloped the sweeping form of an express train, recalled to me the fact that the plutocrats not merely crowned the summits with their castles but also claimed the roadway on both sides of the river as their means of profit and plunder, owning the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad on the east and the West Shore Railroad on the west. Truly is this river called the Rhine of America, for do not the ruined remains of castellated towers and frowning fortresses along the banks of Germany's Rhine to the present day proclaim that in medieval times the robber knights and barons were wont to descend upon the unwary trader who traveled along the banks of that river?

Along the Hudson the modern robber barons have also their castles on the heights, they also levy tribute upon all travelers along the river banks, but they do not do so in the bold, reckless and romantic manner of their German prototypes. The difference between the ancient and the modern robber baron is that the former defied his feudal sovereign and the law of the land and often bravely faced risk of life and limb when

the trader whom he attacked chanced to be armed and accompanied by a retinue, while the latter collects his plunder in a cowardly manner under the protection of the law and runs no risk whatever.

Regretfully looking upon the scenery of the valley my mind reverted to the legend of Sleepy Hollow and I murmured:

"How beautiful this valley must have been before it was marred by hideous modern capitalism. How lovely this river and landscape in the days of Rip Van Winkle!"

"Did I hear you mention my name?" asked a quiet voice at my elbow.

Startled, I looked around and found that Rip Van Winkle stood beside me. In some strange and inaccountable manner I had left the railroad car and stood upon an eminent part of the old Boston road from whence I could look down upon the Hudson river, flowing and winding some hundreds of feet below me in the valley.

There stood Rip Van Winkle attired in his old-fashioned, quaint eighteenth century garb, a battered hat which had once been three-cornered, but the flaps of which spread out around his long white flowing locks, a loose full-skirted hunting coat and a pair of much mended knee breeches which ended at the knees in leather leggings. Somehow I seemed to be quite at home with him and when he again remarked:

"You mentioned my name. How comes it that you know me?" I answered:

"I think I was introduced to you by a certain gentleman of New York city called Washington Irving. Pray tell me what you have been doing since your unpleasant awakening, about which that gentleman told me?"

"Well," replied Rip, "that's quite a long, sad story. Let us sit on the fence while I tell you my narrative."

"But you see," I remarked, "that there is nothing but those miserable new-fangled barbed wire fences on both sides of the road and is it not written somewhere that he who sitteth down upon a barbed wire fence shall rise again?"

We stretched ourselves upon the narrow strip of greensward which skirted the dusty high road and Rip Van Winkle began as follows:

"After my unpleasant experiences following upon my awakening about which you appear to know, I returned to Sleepy Hollow and went to sleep again. How long I slept I cannot tell you; I simply know that I was rudely awakened by an overseer of the estate, as he called himself, who informed me that he would have me arrested for vagrancy if I did not get up and move on right away. I did so and found that all the pleasant scenery was enclosed by these hideous barbed wire fences and perceived far off on the hillside an extensive but extremely showy modern palace which I was informed was the residence of a wealthy plutocrat who owned all the beautiful country thereabout. Instinctively I thought of those British aristocrats who in colonial times not only had their large enclosed estates in the mother country, but were in some places introducing their slavish semi-feudal institutions into the colonies. I really began to wonder whether what I had heard in my previous awakening about a certain George Washington and a free republic in this country had not been merely a dream and whether the descendants of King George and his aristocratic government still ruled this land and had developed their monarchal institutions here. I traveled down the Hudson and everywhere I went I found the same fenced in estates and large mansions and every time I tried to lay down and go to sleep I was awakened, threatened with arrest and called a tramp. Brutality, hurry, avarice and misery confronted me on every side and I found myself no longer regarded as in the kindly old days of yore as an interesting vagabond, but called a loafer and blamed for my idleness. Now, indolence is not always an evil."

"I quite agree with you, Rip," I remarked, as I yawned, stretched myself in the sunlight and contemplatively puffed a cloud of tobacco smoke upward. "Indolence is said to be the mother of all vice, but she is a kindly mother, even though her children do not turn out to be very respectable. It has also been said that indolence is an indication of a reflective temperament."

"Well," continued Rip Van Winkle, "I eventually reached New York city. That terrible desert of sky-scrapers and tenements, peopled with the vitiated bodies of men, women and children whose souls have died, with its flaunting vice, its ostentatious opulence, its sordid degrading poverty and filth shocked my healthy old-fashioned colonial mind and nearly drove me to despair. I, Rip Van Winkle, really could not sleep for some time. At length tired out I stretched myself out in a doorway located upon a noisy thoroughfare misnamed by the very peaceful and pastoral sounding name of the Bowery, but I was soon awakened by a policeman banging me upon the soles of my shoes with a long stick."

I who know the Bowery could not refrain from laughter at Rip's quiet unsophisticated recital and turned aside to hide my merriment.

"I found myself," continued my companion, "eventually compelled to enter

a common lodging house. What a repulsive den it was! The place was dark and reeking with offensive odors, the rows of beds one above the other, 'double-deckers' they call them, the sheets dirty and swarming with vermin and many of the lodgers were drunken and noisy. I tried to sleep in one of the beds but could not on account of the

"Stop!" I cried; "don't say that word. It's coarse. You mean the pediculus vestimenti," giving the Latin entomological term for the active little insects to which Rip was about to refer openly and vulgarly. I acquired the habit of throwing learned Latin bluffs through associating with a certain sect of ultra-scientific Socialists in New York city.

"I call them by a shorter name," rejoined Rip; "but I think the mighty name you give them suits them better because they are so mightily pernicious. They, oh!" cried he, scratching ingloriously at the tattered remains of the seat of his knee-breeches.

I moved quickly and nervously away, for I have a wholesome dread of the ubiquitous and aggressive little pediculus vestimenti.

"Well, in brief," said Rip, "I can find no quiet spot to sleep in any longer. Driven from place to place, abused, vilified, misunderstood, starving, homeless and despised, I find myself where you see me, no longer the interesting vagabond I was when you last met me, but a modern, disreputable tramp. Can you tell me why this is so?"

"Your drowsiness," I answered, "has been disturbed by what we modern Socialists call the capitalist system and if it has at last succeeded in waking you up, Rip, there is some hope that it may awaken that other individual who alone beats your record for drowsiness—viz., the modern wage slave."

"Do you not remember, Rip Van Winkle, that before you fell into your first long slumber King George III. and his despotic government had conserved to themselves not only the political power of England, but also were extending by unjust and oppressive legislation their tyrannous sway over the colonies of America?"

"Yes," rejoined Rip, "and I also remember how the colonists arose, overthrew the government of King George and placed all political liberty in the hands of the people by establishing a free republic, and there were happy homes and a peaceful people along the valley of the beautiful Hudson. But whence this frightful change?"

"I will tell you," I replied. "During the course of time commerce and industry have developed, but all commercial and industrial resources are controlled by a modern monarch far more despotic than George III.—viz., Monarch Monopoly. All means of transportation and production, all railroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones, all factories, mines, workshops, etc., are monopolized by a limited number of capitalists, and most of these capitalists are formed together into a small group of avaricious plutocrats who have come to a common understanding among themselves as to how they can control all industries, and have thus formed what we term monopolies or trusts. The mass of people being dependent upon these trusts for work, wages and their very life, are reduced to a condition of abject servitude. Hence the want, misery and suffering which you perceive on every side. But a great and glorious evangel of labor emancipation is spreading rapidly through the land. That evangel is called Socialism. It demands that all land and all the means of transportation, communication, commerce and industry should be owned by a government of the people, and that the people through the medium of that government should become their own employers. The noble truths of this gospel are spreading rapidly, and soon King Capital will be dethroned and an industrial republic be established, even as King George was overthrown and a political republic established a century and a quarter ago."

"Then again will this fair valley of the Hudson, and all the valleys, hillsides and plains of this broad, rich land of America be peopled with free, happy and contented citizens. Then will the blithe and happy song of the emancipated and free laborer be borne upon the waves of this flowing river. Then will the breezes carry like the perfume of the flowers in the spring time the musical laughter of free, healthy children. Then will the smiling blue waters of the flowing Hudson reflect the large, laughing eyes and graceful forms of magnificent maidens, strong and athletic as the goddesses of ancient Greece. Then will—"

"Crotona! All out for Yonkers!! Don't you want to get out here? Hurry up! Do you think the New York Central is going to stop while you sit there sleeping?"

I started and awoke. My vision of Rip Van Winkle had been but a dream. I was seated in the railroad car, the open book upon my lap and a brakeman standing over me berating my laziness in vigorous tones. I arose in that sour mood peculiar to the recently awakened and used in my wrath a few unprintable expressions. I stepped from the car, but as the train was already pulling out, my foot slipped and I rolled over on the platform, and there sat blinking and looking ruefully after the notes of a lec-

ture which I had prepared to inflict upon the patient denizens of Yonkers, but which were scattered by the suction of the train.

A comrade of Yonkers, who was on the platform to meet me, made no attempt to conceal his amusement at my discomfiture, and perceiving him, I again relapsed into the unprintable.

Gathering myself, my book, my notes and my temper, I accompanied him up the steep Main street, which climbs the hillside from the river to Getty square.

"Well," grumbled my comrade, "you look half asleep. Those New Yorkers couldn't send anybody but you, eh? You're the sleepest of the whole bunch."

I yawned and was about to reply sarcastically, when suddenly I saw an old beggarman with long, white hair and tattered clothing, who reminded me forcibly of my recent dream. He seemed to look at me with such sad, pleading eyes that impulsively I stepped toward him.

"Well, where are you rushing to now?" asked my companion.

"Look at that quaint, picturesque beggar!" I exclaimed.

He looked in the direction indicated and remarked, with an inimitable drawl: "Say, doesn't he look like Rip Van Winkle?"

THE PLATFORM

The Social Democratic Party of America declares that life, liberty and happiness depend upon equal political and economic rights.

In our economic development an industrial revolution has taken place, the individual tool of former years having become the social tool of the present. The individual tool was owned by the worker who employed himself and was master of his product. The social tool, the machine, is owned by the capitalist and the worker is dependent upon him for employment. The capitalist thus becomes the master of the worker and is able to appropriate to himself a large share of the product of his labor.

Capitalism, the private ownership of the means of production, is responsible for the insecurity of subsistence, the poverty, misery and degradation of the ever-growing majority of our people; but the same economic forces which have produced and now intensify the capitalist system will necessitate the adoption of Socialism, the collective ownership of the means of production for the common good and welfare.

The present system of social production and private ownership is rapidly converting society into two antagonistic classes—i. e., the capitalist class and the propertyless class. The middle class, once the most powerful of this great nation, is disappearing in the mill of competition. The issue is now between the two classes first named. Our political liberty is now of little value to the masses unless used to acquire economic liberty.

Independent political action and the trade union movement are the chief emancipating factors of the working class, the one representing its political, the other its economic wing, and both must co-operate to abolish the capitalist system.

Therefore the Social Democratic Party of America declares its object to be:

First—The organization of the working class into a political party to conquer the public powers now controlled by capitalists.

Second—The abolition of wage-slavery by the establishment of a national system of co-operative industry, based upon the social or common ownership of the means of production and distribution, to be administered by society in the common interest of all its members, and the complete emancipation of the socially useful classes from the domination of capitalism.

The working class and all those in sympathy with their historic mission to realize a higher civilization should sever connection with all capitalist and reform parties and unite with the Social Democratic Party of America.

The control of political power by the Social Democratic party will be tantamount to the abolition of all class rule.

The solidarity of labor connecting the millions of class-conscious fellow-workers throughout the civilized world will lead to international Socialism; the brotherhood of man.

As steps in that direction, we make the following demands:

First—Revision of our federal constitution, in order to remove the obstacles to complete control of government by the people irrespective of sex.

Second—The public ownership of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines.

Third—The public ownership of all railroads, telegraphs and telephones; all means of transportation, and communication; all water-works, gas and electric plants, and other public utilities.

Fourth—The public ownership of all gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, coal, and other mines, and all oil and gas wells.

Fifth—The reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the increasing facilities of production.

Sixth—The inauguration of a system of public works and improvements for the employment of the unemployed, the public credit to be utilized for that purpose.

Seventh—Useful inventions to be free, the inventor to be remunerated by the public.

Eighth—Labor legislation to be national, instead of local, and international when possible.

Ninth—National insurance of working people against accidents, lack of employment and want in old age.

Tenth—Equal civil and political rights, for men and women, and the abolition of all laws discriminating against women.

Eleventh—The adoption of the initiative and referendum, proportional representation, and the right of recall of representatives by the voters.

Twelfth—Abolition of war and the introduction of international arbitration.

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